

FRUIT FLY EXCLUSION AND DETECTION

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal	To protect American agriculture by controlling and eradicating fruit flies, primarily the Medfly and Mexican fruit fly (MFF), in foreign countries where they may threaten U.S. agriculture. To mitigate the effects of exotic fruit flies on U.S. agriculture.
Enabling Legislation	7 USC 147; PL 78-425. The MFF program began in 1928. The Medfly program began in 1929.
Economic Significance	<p>The Medfly is perhaps the most threatening agricultural pest and is capable of becoming established in fruit and vegetable growing regions in the U.S. Approximately 80 percent of U.S. citrus production is susceptible to Medfly. The presence of Medfly in Mexico would threaten the U.S., due to Mexico's location and its importance as a major source of winter fruits and vegetables. Federal quarantine and trade embargoes by foreign countries would cripple our agricultural trade. There would be a predictable job loss in many industries supported by agricultural activities. The Medfly threatens the marketability U.S.-grown fruits and vegetables, especially from California.</p> <p>If California fruits were quarantined from all foreign markets because of Medfly, the State would lose 35,000 jobs, output would be reduced by \$3.6 billion, and personal earnings would decrease by \$939 million. Increased costs of controlling an established Medfly population, whether or not an embargo were imposed, would range from \$493 million to \$875 million. California could lose \$1.2 billion in gross state product and over 14,000 jobs.</p> <p>Citrus-growing States are vulnerable to MFF infestations either by migration of these flies across the northwestern Mexican border or from infested fruit shipped through these States. The value of the 1998-99 U.S. citrus crop was \$2.57 billion (NASS). The Texas citrus industry is valued at \$36 million annually.</p>
Principal Approach And Methods used to Achieve Goals	Medfly program prevents sustained infestations from occurring in the U.S., Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and north of the 16° N. latitude in Central